

**From:** Charles Martin  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/17/01 2:53am  
**Subject:** you have GOT to be kidding.

To the persons whom it may concern:

Having found the media to be inaccurate more often than not when reporting on stories of great technical complexity, I took it upon myself to review the PDF of the proposed settlement with Microsoft because I wish to comment on it.

My comment is summed up in the subject line of this letter.

Upon reviewing this settlement, I have to ask why you ever bothered suing Microsoft in the first place. This "settlement" is a disgrace to both parties, provides NO penalties for Microsoft's indisputably illegal previous acts, gives them NO incentive to change the way they do business, has plenty of loopholes allowing for MS to actually CONTINUE the very acts that landed them in court in the first place, and allows Microsoft to choose who will oversee their slap on the wrist, I mean "punishment."

It's a joke. It's cruel to the many businesses that have been crushed or hurt by Microsoft's abuse of their monopoly power and were hoping for a measure of redress, pisses all over the findings of law and fact by Judge Jackson (and affirmed by the Appellate Court) and generally allows Microsoft a free hand in their insane plan to take over the world -- LITERALLY.

I don't see why you view a bunch of mentally-incompetent hoodlums in the wastes of the third world as the greatest threat since Hitler, but cannot see that Microsoft's singleminded determination to control the entire US economy (and by proxy, the world's economy) as any less dangerous. You are not doing yourself any favours and are in fact guilty of a decidedly unpatriotic act of selling out the best interests of the people of the United States.

For god's sake, grow some backbone! At the VERY LEAST, you should craft a settlement that forces the government to review their technological needs and award contracts in ALL areas where MS Windows does not need to be used to some other OS vendor.

I've never been more disgusted with the government in my life. The Justice Department needs to rename itself if this goes through ... I suggest "The Department of Two Justices ... one for the Rich, the other for the Rest."

Sincerely

Charles Martin  
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